

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-35, 37-43, and 45-54 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Efland et al. (US 6,025,275) and Byrne (US 5,136,364) in view of Camiletti (US 5,693,565).

Applicant has canceled claims 40-43 and 45-54 without prejudice.

Please see next section regarding the pending claims 31-39.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claim 36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 31 to be equivalent to claim 36 so claim 31, as amended, is allowable.

Claims 32-39 are dependent on claim 31, as amended, and should also be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to claims 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Applicant believes that all claims pending are now in condition for allowance so such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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